

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for facilitating sale and distribution of fuel to a
2 fuel customer, comprising the following step:
3 at a server facility, storing store fuel deal data, and
4 processing said fuel deal data to automatically generate pricing
5 data based on said fuel deal data and in accordance with a
6 predetermined pricing technique;
7 at a client facility coupled to said server facility via an
8 electronic data network, permitting a user to enter said fuel deal
9 data and to cause said server facility to store and process said
10 fuel deal data to automatically generate said pricing data; and
11 permitting said fuel to be sold and distributed to a fuel
12 customer via a fuel distribution system based on said fuel deal
13 data and said automatically generated pricing data.
- 1 1. The method according to claim 1, wherein said server facility
2 and said client facility are coupled to each other via the
3 Internet.
- 1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said server facility
2 and said client facility are coupled to each other via open
3 standards based protocols.
- 1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said server facility
2 includes a data storage facility storing said fuel deal data.
- 1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said server facility
2 automatically generates said pricing data periodically.
- 1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said server facility is
2 further configured to be accessed by a plurality of other client
3 facilities simultaneously.

1 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said client facility is
2 remotely located away from said server facility and said client
3 facility acts as a data collection point for collecting data that
4 said server facility uses in automatically generating said pricing
5 data.

1 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 pricing technique involves basing prices for fuel deals based
3 on past fuel deals.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 pricing technique involves said server facility generating a
3 weighted average selling price based on prior fuel deals.

1 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 pricing technique is implemented within said server facility as a
3 software module running within said server facility.

1 10. A method for facilitating sale and distribution of fuel to a fuel
2 customer, comprising the steps of:

3 at a server facility, storing fuel deal data, and processing
4 said fuel deal data to automatically generate pricing data based
5 on said fuel deal data and in accordance with a predetermined
6 pricing technique, said predetermined pricing technique controlling
7 said server facility to compute fuel prices based on weighted
8 averages of fuel prices maintained within said fuel deal data;

9 at a client facility outfitted with a client application and
10 coupled to said server facility via an electronic data network,
11 permitting a user to enter said fuel deal data and to cause said
12 server facility to store and process said fuel deal data to generate
13 said pricing data, said client application configured to access said
14 electronic data network and to establish communications with said
15 server facility; and

16 permitting said fuel to be sold and distributed to a fuel
17 customer via a fuel distribution system based on said fuel deal
18 data and said automatically generated pricing data.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said server facility
2 and said client facility are coupled to each other via the
3 Internet.

1 12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said server facility
2 and said client facility are coupled to each other via open
3 standards based protocols.

1 13. The method according to claim 10, wherein said server facility
2 includes a data storage facility storing said fuel deal data.

1 14. The method according to claim 10, wherein said server facility
2 automatically generated said pricing data periodically.

1 15. The method according to claim 10, wherein said server facility
2 is further configured to be accessed by a plurality of other
3 client facilities simultaneously.

1 16. The method according to claim 10, wherein said client facility
2 is remotely located away from said server facility and said
3 client facility acts as a data collection point for collecting data
4 that said server facility uses in automatically generating said
5 pricing data.

1 17. The method according to claim 10, wherein said
2 predetermined pricing technique involves basing prices for fuel
3 deals based on past fuel deals.

1 18. The method according to claim 10, wherein said
2 predetermined pricing technique involves said server facility

3 generating a weighted average selling price based on prior fuel
4 deals.

1 19. The method according to claim 10, wherein said
2 predetermined pricing technique is implemented within said
3 server facility as a software module running within said server
4 facility.

1 20. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step
2 of providing a graphical user interface to a user of said client
3 facility, said graphical user interface permitting said user to
4 engage in operations and to cause said server facility to
5 automatically computer said fuel prices.

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